

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 SCI-06

SCEM-02 FPC-01 OPIC-12 DRC-01 /103 W

----- 120145

R 140820Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8095

USDOC WASHDC

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BEIRUT FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BNEP, ENRG, EIND, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT LPG PROJECT

REF: (A) KUWAIT 3611 (NOTAL)

(B) STATE 22065 (NOTAL)

1. REF A REPORTED APPARENT GOK DECISION GO FORWARD WITH \$250 MILLION LPG PROJECT. BECHTEL HAS PREPARED BASIC FEASIBILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION STUDIES, BUT EMBASSY HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM BECHTEL REP MYRLE PERKINS, WHO BASED IN LONDON, THAT COMPANY DID NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO BID FOR CONSTRUCTION. ACCORDING REF B, HOWEVER, BECHTEL REP FRED NOONAN INFORMED COMMERCE THAT COMPANY WILL UNDERTAKE BOTH DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED FACILITY.

2. COMMERCE HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY COMMENT ON STATUS OF PROJECT (REF B). THIS MAY TAKE FEW DAYS SINCE TWO MOST APPROPRIATE CONTACTS, BOTH AMERICAN, BELIEVED TO

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BE OUT OF TOWN RIGHT NOW. IN MEANTIME, WOULD APPRECIATE

ANY INFO RTDO CAN OBTAIN FROM BECHTEL/BEIRUT AND AMEMBASSY LONDON CAN OBTAIN FROM BECHTEL/LONDON REGARDING COMPANY'S PLANS WITH RESPECT KUWAIT LPG PROJECT. FYI NOONAN INDICATED BEIRUT COULD PROVIDE DETAILS, BUT WE BELIEVE BECHTEL/LONDON WOULD ALSO BE FULLY INFORMED SINCE IT HAS BEEN CARRYING BALL ON PROJECT UP TO NOW END FYI.

3. COMMENT: AS COMMERCE INDICATED (REF B) WHETHER OR NOT BECHTEL INTENDS UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WILL HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING ON HOW USG SHOULD GO ABOUT ADVISING OTHER FIRMS INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT, WHICH IS ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY GOK. QUERIES REGARDING STATUS OF PROJECT AND POSSIBLE ROLE FOR AMERICAN COMPANIES WILL HAVE TO BE HANDLED WITH MORE THAN USUAL CARE IN PRESENT DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION DURING WHICH SOME KUWAITIS MIGHT TRY EMBARRASS GOVERNMENT IF AMERICAN FIRM SELECTED BUILD MAJOR OIL-RELATED INDUSTRIAL FACILITY.
MCCLELLAND

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Message Attributes

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